



Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Contact: Anne Lupardus, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2162

Governor Doyle Urges Legislature to Pass POWER Initiative

Also Urges Citizens to Sign Petition to President Bush to Cap Oil Profits

OSHKOSH – Governor Doyle today called on the Joint Finance Committee of the Legislature to pass his “Promoting Our Wisconsin Energy Resources” (POWER) Initiative before the Legislature adjourns for the year. The Governor’s initiative will help businesses and families utilize renewable fuels and attract more E-85 fueling stations to the state.

“Families across Wisconsin are feeling squeezed by outrageous gas prices,” said Governor Doyle. “My initiative will help Wisconsin families and businesses lower their energy costs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. I’m urging the Joint Finance Committee to act and provide real relief to families who need it.”

Yesterday Governor Doyle joined with the State of Michigan in launching an online petition urging the President and Congress to cap excessive oil company profits and eliminate \$10 billion of taxpayer subsidies directed at the oil industry. The Web site includes a link to where drivers can find the lowest gas prices in their communities.

“I’m asking every Wisconsin family in who is getting squeezed by these ridiculous gas prices to go to www.lowergasprices.wi.gov and sign our petition. We need to send a clear message to Washington and to the boardrooms of big oil that these excessive profits have got to stop.”

Gasoline prices have topped \$3-per-gallon in many parts of Wisconsin, and the average family is paying 67 cents more per gallon for unleaded gasoline than they were a year ago at this time. Oil company profits have skyrocketed nearly 200 percent since President Bush’s inauguration in January 2001, while family incomes have increased by 14 percent.

Last week, ExxonMobil, which just became the largest corporation in the world, announced profits of over \$8.4 billion since the beginning of the year. The entire industry reaps an average of over \$300 million of profit per day.

The two-part POWER Initiative, which Governor Doyle first announced in March, is focused on helping Wisconsin businesses, local governments, and homeowners take advantage of renewable energy fuels and technology in Wisconsin.

-MORE-

- Part I includes \$225,000 in grants to help facilitate the use of renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro, and biomass.
- Part II includes \$335,000 that will be used to increase the number of E-85 pumps in Wisconsin.

E-85 is fuel made with 85 percent ethanol, and 15 percent gasoline. Earlier this year, Governor Doyle directed Department of Administration Secretary Steve Bablitch and Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Secretary Rod Nilsestuen to look into how the state can attract more E85 pumps, making the use of this fuel more convenient for Wisconsin families.

Utica Energy LLC in Oshkosh operates four fueling stations in the Fox Valley area that are currently selling E-85 for under \$2 per gallon. That's about 80 to 90 cents less per gallon than regular gasoline.

The number of E-85 pumps in the state has increased steadily with new stations opening today in Hartford and another in Janesville on Friday.

To find out more information on the Governor's POWER Initiative go online to power.wisconsin.gov. To sign the Governor Doyle's petition to lower gas prices go online to www.lowergasprices.wi.gov.